

to drive him from our midst and secure for all just and equitable legislation.

Yours truly,

WM. ASHWORTH,
Sec'y Stréton Local Union, U.F.A.
GERALD J. LIVELY,
Chairman of Organization Committee.
Kitscoty, Alta. Dec. 9.

The letter above referred to is as follows:
Dear Sir:—The political barometer points to an early provincial election in Alberta. The question before the farmers of this constituency is this: Are they going to allow themselves to be misrepresented by some politician controlled by the party machine and obeying the mandate of the party leaders regardless of the welfare or wishes of the farmers' class, or are we going to make a stand right here for true representative government by electing a man of our own class and choosing.

This union has formed a committee independently—as under our present constitution we are debarred from taking official action—for the purpose of sounding the opinion of the farmers of this constituency.

If in the opinion of the majority, it is decided to nominate an Independent Farmers' candidate, a convention will be called at some central point of which you will have full notice, and at which you will have the opportunity of nominating a man of your own choice. The fact that the majority of Independent votes at the last federal election were cast in the constituency of Alexandra, assures us of very strong support.

Would you kindly co-operate with us in this matter, by ascertaining the feelings of the farmers in your vicinity, and reporting to us at your earliest convenience, the necessity for prompt organization being imperative.

This appeal is being made to the whole constituency of Alexandra.

Yours truly,

WM. ASHWORTH, Sec'y.
GERALD J. LIVELY, Chairman.

THE JOHN BRIGHT CENTENARY

Born the 16th of November, 100 years ago, John Bright became, in his own country, the greatest moral force in the public life of his time. He was an idealist. More than any other, except Cobden, he shattered the old protectionist system in Great Britain and forced the adoption of free trade. He denounced every war in which his country engaged during his public career, and his attack on militarism was the incessant labor of a lifetime.

When Gladstone allowed his government to be dragged into the Egyptian war, Bright resigned from the cabinet rather than smother the protest which his conscience dictated. His noble and fearless criticism of the Crimean war, even while it was in progress, brought upon him the popular charge of treason, yet no less a statesman than Lord Salisbury many years afterward vindicated the position of Bright by admitting that England had "placed her money on the wrong horse."

The most thrilling, persuasive and inspiring orator of his generation, he was also its foremost radical on all those questions which were embodied in the interests and the liberties of the masses of the people. He was a powerful friend of popular education. He threw his influence for the extension of the franchise. In a kingdom ruled by the "upper classes," he was a democrat to the core.

But there was one service performed by John Bright which more than any other revealed the worth of idealism in public affairs, and, at the same time, gave him a most honorable place in our history. In the blackest days of the civil war, he was the North's most eloquent and influential advocate, and it may be truly said of him that he did more than any other Englishman to instruct and guide the opinion of the middle class and the workingmen of the industrial districts of the kingdom in the right direction.

Bright's sure moral instinct could not lead him astray, in such a crisis. His understanding of the deep-lying moral issue of the war between the states was instant and unerring. As early as December, 1861, he delivered at Rochdale, to quote one of our American historians, "a noble, sympathetic and convincing speech, reaching a moral height which few public men ever attain." During the grave situation that arose between the United States and Great Britain on

account of the capture of Mason and Slidell, Bright's voice was uncompromisingly for peace. He was in intimate correspondence with Charles Sumner, and his letters were frequently read by President Lincoln and the cabinet. How sound and wise was his advice to the Washington government at that time may be seen from one of those letters: "At all hazards you must not let this matter grow into a war with England; even if you are right and we are wrong, war will be fatal to your idea of restoring the Union. . . . I am looking alone to your great country, the hope of freedom and humanity. . . . You may disappoint your enemies by the moderation and reasonableness of your conduct, and every honest and good man in England will applaud your conduct."

And this role of friend and peace-maker John Bright played to the end of the struggle, his services in the later period of friction and wrath over the responsibility of the British government for the outfitting of the confederate cruisers being no less sympathetic and notable. The finest tribute to his course in those difficult years is to be found today in the fact that the biographer of every English statesman of the mid-Victorian period wishes that his hero had John Bright's peerless record in relation to the American war.

We can scarcely appreciate the value of the services such a man performed for the services of humanity. His role was not that of a "constructive statesman." But the fires of his idealistic nature have often determined the course constructive statesmen should take. Aside from his services to the North, his chief claims to distinction are, perhaps, his work in revolutionizing Britain's fiscal system, so that food should be free, and his warfare on war. Some may say that already his work has been proved to be fruitless or is now being undone—that militarism is more aggressive and rampant than in Bright's time and that free trade in England is being subjected to an attack that will soon cause its overthrow; but even if that were true, the value of men like Bright would be incalculable.

Free trade in England, however, still has vigorous life and it seems destined to endure severer shocks than the one dealt it by Joseph Chamberlain. And, while armaments have grown to an extent undreamed of when Bright died, and wars have continued to disgrace mankind, nothing in these days would have delighted him more than the many convincing evidences of the increasing popular force of the peace movement of the world. The growing strength of the arbitration idea, to which he was so much devoted, the peace congresses, the Hague tribunal, the many arbitration treaties now in existence, the splendid financial endowments of the peace propaganda—all these signs of an awakened conscience among the nations would have filled his soul with joy and have convinced him that some of the finest "constructive statesmanship" of his public career consisted in that passion of protest with which he denounced the wars of his own time and separated himself from the governments that were responsible for them.

No one like John Bright is left in the politics of his country. But he is not an extinct force. The idealism he exemplified in every important public act is part of the eternal righteousness that streams through the universe; and the man who follows high and noble ideals, while shunning the baser and more ignoble standards of expediency and opportunism, makes his influence a moral force that can never die.

—Springfield Republican.

FARMERS' SHORT COURSES

The Saskatchewan college of agriculture will hold short courses of instruction in agriculture and domestic science at eight places in Saskatchewan during January and February next. These courses have been planned to meet the needs of the rural communities in which they are to be conducted, and will cover a number of practical subjects. Farm crops, live stock, forestry and other important agricultural topics will receive attention. Any person interested in agriculture or homemaking may attend, and there will be no fees to pay for the privilege of attending. The staff of lecturers includes Dean Rutherford, Prof. Bracken and Prof.



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Willing, of the college of agriculture, Saskatoon, and J. Cochrane Smith, manager of the Sutherland farms, Saskatoon. Hon. W. R. Motherwell, A. F. Mantle and W. A. Wilson, of the department of agriculture, Regina, and Norman M. Ross, chief of the tree planting division, Indian Head, will also give addresses at a number of the short courses.

For the women a program of addresses and demonstrations is being arranged. These will occupy the afternoon of each day. The college of agriculture will supply two lecturers, and local speakers will be secured to contribute extra numbers.

The dates of the short courses and

the places where they are to be held are: Prince Albert, January 9, 10, 11 and 12; South Battleford, January 17, 18, 19 and 20; Wilkie, January 23, 24, 25 and 26; Kindersley, January 30, 31, February 1, 2; Yorkton, February 13, 14, 15 and 16; Wolsley, February 20, 21, 22 and 23; Estevan, February 27, 28, 29 and March 1; Gull Lake, March 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The annual agricultural societies' convention and short course will be held for the first time at the college of agriculture, Saskatoon, on February 6, 7, 8 and 9. The provincial grain show will be held at the college at the same time but exhibits must reach the college by January 27.